

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for providing a network environment of information data exchange by setting a closed network as requested from a plurality of clients, comprising:

receiving a request to provide said network environment from one of said clients representing a group;[[,]]

setting said closed ~~an individual~~ network for each of said clients in the group requesting to ~~provide a~~ said closed network in response to the received request and informing ~~[[to]]~~ said client of use permission based on ~~with~~ a predetermined discriminator and an access priority, said access priority representing a priority of the group, only member clients of the group being accessible to said closed network; and

managing a use time of said closed network for the group.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method for providing a network environment of information data exchange by setting a closed network as requested from a plurality of clients, comprising:

~~a step of requesting~~ receiving a request to provide said network environment from said clients representing a group;[[,]]

~~a step of setting~~ said closed ~~an individual~~ network for each of said clients in the group requesting to ~~provide a~~ said network at ~~said requesting step~~ by said server and informing said client of use permission based on ~~[[of]]~~ a predetermined discriminator; ~~[[,]]~~

~~a step of giving said~~ client ~~discriminator~~ informed at said setting and informing ~~step~~ access priority to said closed ~~individual~~ network and starting measurement of a use time of

said closed network, said access priority representing a priority of the group, only member clients of the group being accessible to said closed network;

~~a step of~~ inquiring said client about whether or not to extend when said network use time with measurement started at said giving and starting ~~step~~ passes a predetermined time;[[,]] and

~~a step of~~ extending said closed network use time when said client requests for extension for said inquiry at said inquiring ~~step~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A system for providing a network environment of information data exchange by setting a closed network as requested from a plurality of clients, comprising:

means for receiving a request ~~requesting~~ to provide said network environment from said clients representing a group;[[,]]

means for setting said closed ~~an individual~~ network for each of said clients in the group requesting ~~to provide a said~~ network by said ~~requesting~~ means for receiving a request by a server and informing said client of use permission based on [[of]] a predetermined discriminator;[[,]] and

means for giving said client ~~discriminator~~ informed by said means for setting and informing ~~means~~ access priority to said closed ~~individual~~ network and managing a use time of said closed network, said access priority representing a priority of the group, only member clients of the group being accessible to said closed network.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A server for providing a network environment of information data exchange to ~~with~~ a plurality of clients by setting a closed network, comprising ~~comprises~~:

a receiver configured to receive a message transmitted from one of said clients
representing a group;[[,]]

a data converter configured to convert said message according to an environment of
said client;[[,]]

a transmitter configured to transmit said message after conversion;[[,]]

an access controller configured to control accessing in said network in consideration
of access priority based on [[by]] a discriminator included in said message;[[,]]

a client manager configured to check said discriminator of said client;[[,]]

a schedule storage storing time management information of said closed network;[[,]]

and

a network environment manager configured to manage said closed network with the
access priority, said access priority representing a priority of the group, only member clients
of the group being accessible to said closed network.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A client device used in a system for providing a
network environment of information data exchange with other client devices and a server, the
client device comprising:

a communication device configured to communicate with said server having an access
controller configured to control accessing in a closed network accessed by a plurality of
clients representing a group in consideration of access priority, said access priority
representing a priority of the group, only member clients of the group being accessible to said
closed network;[[,]]

a communication setting manager configured to prepare for communication passes
with said server;[[,]]

a receiver configured to receive a message transmitted from said server;[[,]]

a store configured to store said message;[[,]]

a converter configured to convert said message into a display data format and convert input data to a message;[[,]] and

a terminal job manager configured to manage said communication data conversion.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A server for providing a network environment of information data exchange with a plurality of clients according to Claim 4,

wherein said access priority is based on ~~decided from~~ an Internet protocol address of said client.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A client device used in a system for providing a network environment with other client devices and a server according to Claim 5,

wherein said converter has a main program operating regardless of a software environment used by said client and a plurality of subprograms operating according to said software environment used by said client, the system starts said subprograms according to said kind of said data in said message, and converts a ~~said~~ display file.

Claim 8 (Original): A server for providing a network environment with a plurality of clients, according to Claim 4,

wherein said server further has a service giving means for billing said client according to a use time designated by said client and an extended time used by said client.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A closed ~~local~~ network service providing method for a server which is configured ~~are capable~~ to communicate with a plurality of client devices via a communication network, comprising:

receiving a closed ~~local~~ network service request from a contract client device which represents a group of client devices, wherein each ~~[[of]]~~ client device ~~devices~~ in the group uses said closed ~~a local~~ network service being requested and a priority of said closed network service is controlled by said server in consideration of access priority, said access priority representing a priority of the group, only member clients of the group being accessible to said closed network;

making a contract with the contract client for a reservation of the closed ~~local~~ network service, wherein the contract includes at least an allowed use time of the closed ~~local~~ network service;

establishing communication passes with each ~~[[of]]~~ client device ~~devices~~ included in the group to allow each ~~[[of]]~~ client device ~~devices~~ to use the closed ~~local~~ network; and

monitoring an actual use time of the closed ~~local~~ network to compare with the allowed use time.